



2008 Republican National Convention

Monday, September 1 –
Thursday, September 4, 2008
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Opportunity of a Lifetime

- This is the largest event Saint Paul has ever hosted
- Minneapolis Saint Paul was a finalist for both the Democratic and Republican National Conventions
- Only the Olympics attract more media attention than a national political convention
- An unparalleled opportunity to showcase our region to the world

Facts About the Convention

- Monday, September 1 (Labor Day) to Thursday, September 4, 2008
- Xcel Energy Center
- Saint Paul RiverCentre
- 45,000 visitors, including 15,000 members of the national and international media
- 17,000 hotel rooms in Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Bloomington
- Event venues all around metro area

Planning Organizations

- RNC Committee on Arrangements
- Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee
- Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureaus
- City of Saint Paul
- Local and Federal Law Enforcement Agencies

RNC Committee on Arrangements

- Maria Cino, CEO
- Political organization
- Headquarters at 180 E 5th Street in downtown Saint Paul
- 150 staff members
- Produce “the show” inside the arena
- Party business



Minneapolis Saint Paul 2008 Host Committee

- Jeff Larson, CEO
- Cyndi Leshner, President
- Non-profit, non-partisan community organization
- Raise approximately \$60 million in tax-deductible corporate contributions
- Recruit 10,000 volunteers
- Produce Civic Fest in Minneapolis Convention Center
- Promote Minneapolis Saint Paul



July 16, 2008

Saint Paul Convention & Visitors Authority

- Hospitality programs
- Tours
- Information desks
- Marketing and promotions

SAINT PAUL
WHERE MINNESOTA ADVENTURE BEGINS
Official Convention & Visitors Authority

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City of Saint Paul

- Erin Dady, Director of Convention Planning
- Work Groups:
 - Security
 - Legal & Risk Management
 - Licensing & Inspections
 - Finance
 - Technology
 - Venues & Facilities
 - Public Affairs & Outreach
 - Beautification
 - Transportation & Parking



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Security

- Designated a National Special Security Event by the Department of Homeland Security
- United States Secret Service (USSS) is Lead Agency
- Saint Paul Police Department is Lead Local Agency
- The City of Saint Paul received a \$50 million federal grant to pay for all local security costs
- Approximately 3,500 officers needed from 80 law enforcement agencies
- Downtown Saint Paul will be OPEN for business during the convention

Saint Paul Police Department

- Issue demonstration permits
- Negotiate Joint Powers Agreements with law enforcement agencies
- Co-chair 17 subcommittees with the USSS to plan all aspects of security
- Outreach to downtown businesses and residents near the Xcel Center
- First phase of traffic management plan has been released

Traffic Management Plan

- Developed by Saint Paul Police Department
- Working with other law enforcement and government agencies
- Reviewed other cities and other events to create our plan
- Two Key Objectives
 - Keep Saint Paul OPEN for business during the convention
 - Support the Saint Paul Police Department's safety, security and mobility goals

Traffic Management Plan



- Nearly all major access roads to downtown will remain open during the RNC, including:
 - Interstate 94
 - Interstate 35E
 - Wabasha Street
 - Robert Street
 - Shepard Road
- **Main access roads to remain open**
- **Some highway exits may have limited access**

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Downtown Parking Information

- For people who park in area around Xcel arena:
 - They will be contacted
 - New locations have been identified for them
 - Shuttle services will be in place during the convention
- For the rest of downtown
 - Parking lots and ramps outside of vehicle restriction area will remain open
 - There will be more traffic in downtown

Downtown will be open for business

Downtown Parking Information



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Traffic Management Plan Timing

- Vehicle restrictions go into effect the weekend before the event
- Plan to return the city to normal immediately after the RNC concludes
- Community Meetings at City Hall, Room 40 for residents and businesses in vehicle restriction area to discuss traffic, parking and deliveries
 - Monday, August 11, 6 pm to 7 pm
 - Wednesday, August 13, 8 am to 9 am

What to be Prepared for During RNC

- Increased traffic in downtown
- Changes in area immediately around the arena
- Significant impact will likely be confined to a fairly limited area of downtown Saint Paul

Public Safety Commitment to Saint Paul

- Saint Paul officers will patrol the Saint Paul neighborhoods
- Officers from other agencies will help in downtown area
- Enhanced Fire and EMS Service

Business Opportunities

- GO Party Discount Card
- Significant short- and long-term economic impact
- Boston (DNC 2004) reported \$160 million and NYC (RNC 2004) reported \$212 million
- Realistic expectations

Residents' Participation

- Civic Fest, A Very Minnesota Celebration
- Saint Paul-itics Series, Saint Paul Public Libraries
 - www.saintpaulitics.org
- Award MSP, Resident Discount Program
 - www.awardmsp.com
- Saint Paul high school curriculum
- Declaration of Independence

Legacies

- Green Gatherings
- Skyway signage
- Beautification
- Spruce Up MSP
- Saint Paul Red Carpet Retail Initiative
- Increased convention business
- Media attention—raise MSP profile

Keep In Touch

- City of Saint Paul
www.stpaul.gov
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651-266-8989
- MSP 2008 Host Committee
www.msp2008.com
651-677-2008
- RNC Committee on Arrangements
www.gopconvention2008.com
651-467-2008